

“The Tell-Tale Heart” Vocabulary
Edgar Allan Poe

Vocabulary Word	Definition & Part of Speech	Sentence from Tell-Tale Heart	Picture or Original Sentence
acute (pg. 145)	adj. sensitive		
dissimulation (pg. 145)	n. the hiding of one’s feelings or purposes		
profound (pg. 145)	adj. seeing beyond what is obvious		
sagacity (pg. 146)	n. high intelligence and sound judgment		
crevice (pg. 147)	n. a narrow opening		
suavity (pg. 148)	n. graceful politeness		
gesticulations (pg. 148)	n. energetic hand or arm gestures		
derision (pg. 148)	n. contempt; ridicule		

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1. acute (pg. 145)	adj. sensitive	Above all was the sense of hearing <u>acute</u> . I hear all things in the heaven an in the earth.	
2. dissimulation (pg. 145)	n. the hiding of one’s feelings or purposes	You should have seen how wisely I proceeded---with such caution---with such foresight---with was <u>dissimulation</u> I went to work.	
3. profound (pg. 145)	adj. seeing beyond what is obvious	So he must have been a very <u>profound</u> old man, indeed, to suspect that every night, just at twelve, I looked in upon him while he slept.	
4. sagacity (pg. 146)	n. high intelligence and sound judgment	Never before that night, had I felt the extent of my own powers---of my <u>sagacity</u> .	
5. crevice (pg. 147)	n. a narrow opening	When I had waited a long time, very patiently, without heading him lie down, I resolved to open a little---a very, very little <u>crevice</u> in the lantern.	
6. suavity (pg. 148)	n. graceful politeness	There entered three men, who introduced themselves, with perfect <u>suavity</u> , as officers of the police.	
7. gesticulations (pg. 148)	n. energetic hand or arm gestures	I arose and argued about trifles, in a high key with violent <u>gesticulations</u> ; but noise steadily increased.	
8. derision (pg. 148)	n. contempt; ridicule	Anything would be more tolerable than this <u>derision</u> !	